

CLAIMS

1. A rock bolt which includes an expansible tubular section and an expansion unit which is connected to the tubular section.
2. A rock bolt according to claim 1 wherein the tubular section is an elongate tubular section which is radially expansible.
3. A rock bolt according to claim 1 or 2 which includes a valve which is connected to the tubular section and through which a pressurized fluid can pass into an interior of the tubular section to expand the tubular section.
4. A rock bolt according to any one of claims 1 to 3 wherein the tubular section, in a non-expanded form, includes a generally U-shaped outer portion and a smaller, generally U-shaped inner portion which is positioned at least partly inside the outer portion.
5. A rock bolt according to any one of claims 1 to 4 which includes a bearing plate which is engaged with the tubular section at a position at which the bearing plate abuts structure which serves to retain the bearing plate engaged with the tubular section.
6. A rock bolt according to any one of claims 1 to 5 which includes a shank which extends between the tubular section and the expansion unit.
7. A rock bolt according to claim 6 wherein the tubular section is swaged or welded onto the shank, or is threadedly engaged with the shank.

8. A rock bolt according to claim 6 or 7 wherein an end of the tubular section at least partly encloses an end of the shank.
9. A rock bolt according to any one of claims 1 to 5 which includes a coupling device which is secured to the tubular section, and a shank which is threadedly engaged with the coupling device and to which is attached the expansion unit.
10. A rock bolt according to any one of claims 6 to 9 wherein the expansion unit includes a spring-loaded bail-type expansion unit which has a wedge member at one end of the shank, a plurality of shells which abut an outer surface of the wedge member, a bail which is connected to the shells and a biasing member which acts between the bail and the wedge member.
11. A rock bolt which includes an elongate tubular member which is formed with an inlet through which a pressurized fluid can pass, into an interior of the tubular member, thereby to expand the tubular member in a radial direction, an elongate shank with a first end which is secured to the tubular member and a second end, and an expansion unit which has a wedge-shaped member at the second end of the shank.
12. A rock bolt according to claim 11 wherein the first end of the shank is directly secured to the tubular member.
13. A rock bolt according to claim 11 which includes a coupling device which is secured to the tubular member and the shank is indirectly secured to the

tubular member by being detachably threadedly engaged with the coupling device.